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SPENCER ACKERMAN - EVAN NARCISSE - JESÚS MERINO - MICHAEL ATIYEH

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WALLER VS. WILDSTORM

BOOK ONE

SPENCER ACKERMAN
&
EVAN NARCISSE
Writers

JESÚS MERINO
Artist

VICENTE CIFUENTES
Inks, Pgs 21-31

MIKE ATIYEH
Colors

DAVE SHARPE
Letters

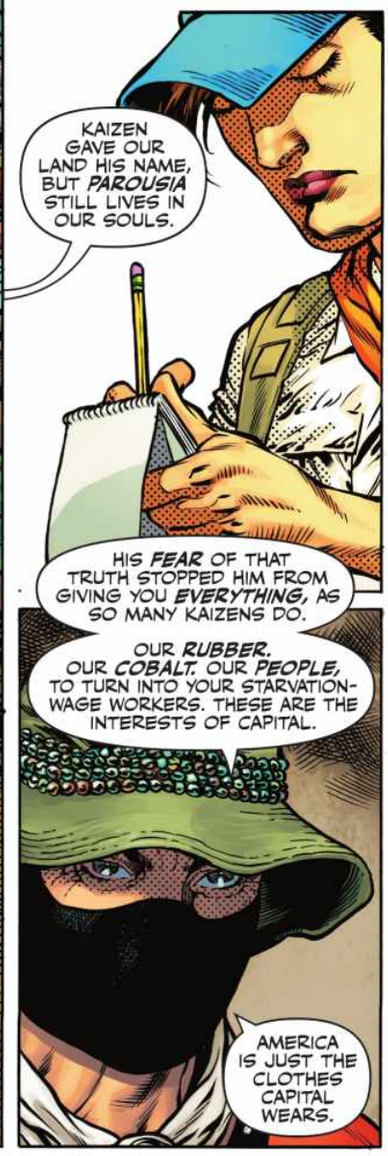
JORGE FORNÉS
Cover

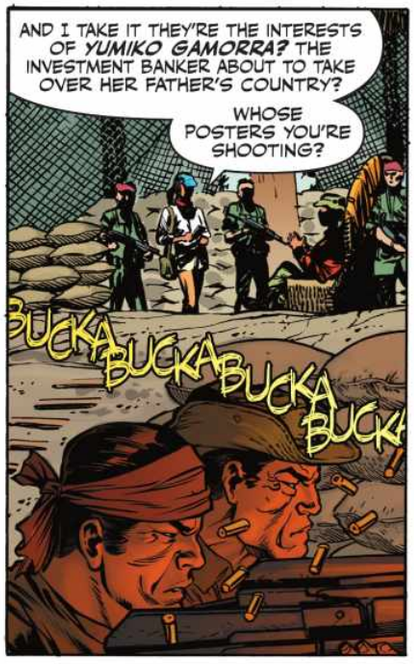
ERIC BATTLE
&
ULISES ARREOLA
Variant Cover

MIKE PERKINS
1:25 Variant Cover

GAMORRA.
THE FINAL DAYS OF THE COLD WAR.
"AMERICA IS COMING.
"WE KNOW OUR HISTORY. WE KNOW YOUR HISTORY.
"THIS IS WHAT HISTORY SHOWS."
BUT GENERAL RONG, AMERICA IS ALREADY HERE...
BUCKABUCKABUCKA
WASHINGTON HAS BACKED KAIZEN GAMORRA SINCE BEFORE EITHER OF US WAS BORN. WHAT'S CHANGING?
I MEAN THE REAL AMERICA IS COMING, MS. LANE. THE MILITARY "ADVISERS" YOU SEND ARE MERELY AN ADVANCE GUARD.
CAPITAL IS COMING.

YOUR MILITARY ARRIVES FIRST, AND PROTECTS NERVOUS ELITES FROM POPULAR MOVEMENTS LIKE OURS.
THEN YOU TELL YOUR PEOPLE THAT ALLIES LIKE KAIZEN ARE WHAT STAND BETWEEN THEM AND COMMUNISM.
THE KAIZENS OF THE WORLD SIGN AWAY THEIR AIR AND SEA BASING RIGHTS TO YOUR AIR FORCE AND YOUR NAVY. THE ADVANCE GUARD STAYS. THEIR KAIZENS RULE.
BUT THAT IS THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY, NOT THE END.


KAIZEN GAVE OUR LAND HIS NAME, BUT PAROUSIA STILL LIVES IN OUR SOULS.
HIS FEAR OF THAT TRUTH STOPPED HIM FROM GIVING YOU EVERYTHING, AS SO MANY KAIZENS DO.
OUR RUBBER. OUR COBALT. OUR PEOPLE, TO TURN INTO YOUR STARVATION-WAGE WORKERS. THESE ARE THE INTERESTS OF CAPITAL.
AMERICA IS JUST THE CLOTHES CAPITAL WEARS.


AND I TAKE IT THEY'RE THE INTERESTS OF YUMIKO GAMORRA? THE INVESTMENT BANKER ABOUT TO TAKE OVER HER FATHER'S COUNTRY?
WHOSE POSTERS YOU'RE SHOOTING?
BUCKA BUCKA BUCKA BUCK!

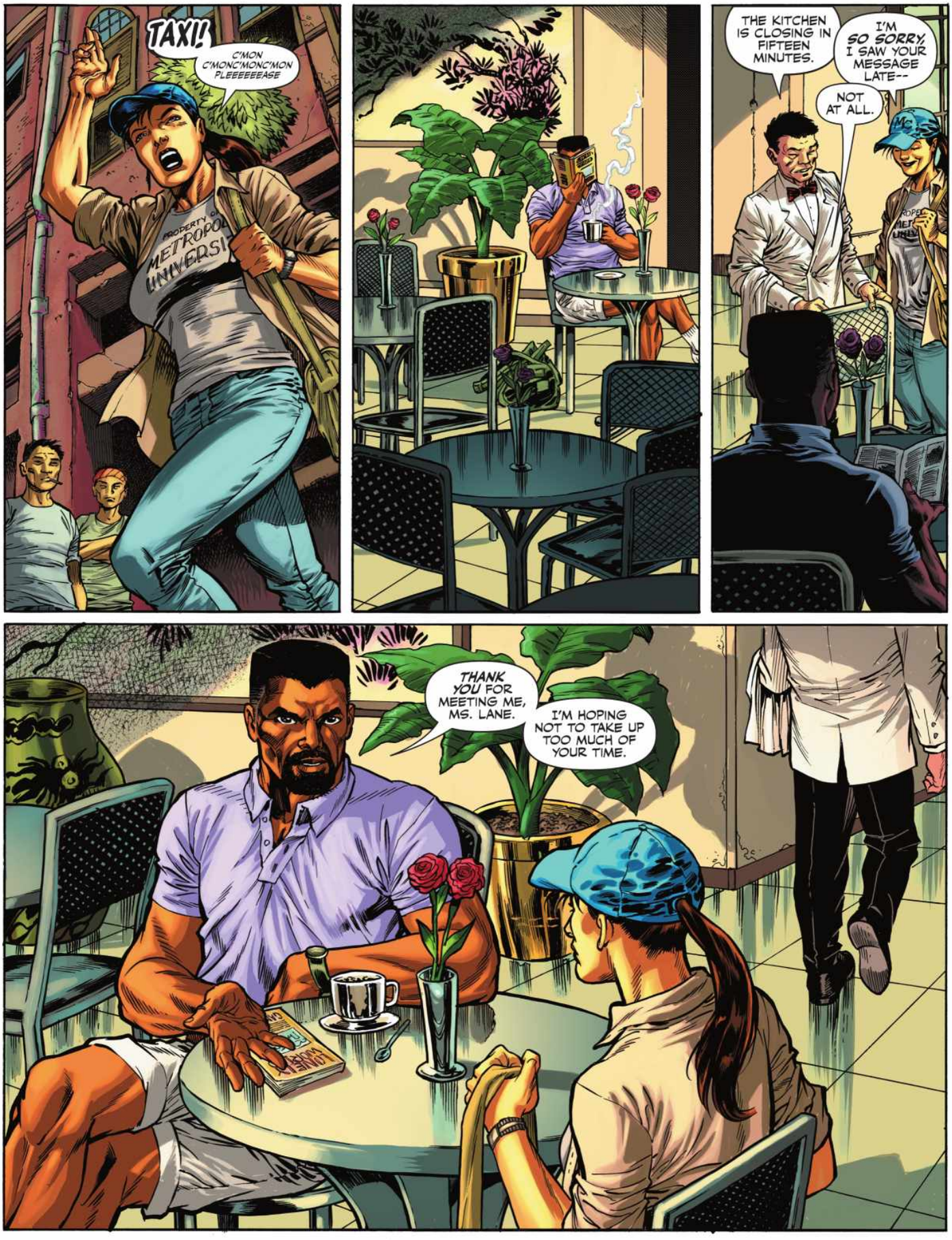
FOR YUMIKO, THERE IS NO PAROUSIA, NOR EVEN GAMORRA. ONLY CAPITAL. SOMEONE LIKE THAT WILL EASILY KILL HER OWN.
IF NO ONE STOPS HER.

A BANKER IS GOING TO KILL THE PEOPLE HER DICTATOR FATHER WOULDN'T?

BUCKA BUCKA BUCKA BUCKA BUCK

SUNSET HOTEL
WERE THERE ANY MESSAGES FOR ME?
YOUR EDITOR CALLED. AND SOMEONE DROPPED OFF THIS LETTER.
MS. LOIS LANE
...THIN? STEVE, WE HAVE THE LEADER OF THE PAROUSIAN LIBERATION FRONT ADDRESSING AN AMERICAN AUDIENCE!
MS. LOIS LANE
STEVE LOMBARD
DEPUTY FOREIGN EDITOR
LOIS, C'MON. SHE GAVE YOU REVOLUTIONARY BOILERPLATE. CAPITALISM BAD. REGIME BAD.
KRRRRZZZZZHHHHHHHH
AMERICA BAD. BLAH BLAH BLAH.
IS THIS REALLY SOMETHING YOU WANT YOUR BYLINE ON?
DO I WANT MY BYLINE ON A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT DECLARING WAR ON THE NEXT LEADER OF A MAJOR U.S. CLIENT?
LOIS--

STEVE, IF YOU SPIKE THIS, RONG AND THE PLF WILL NEVER TRUST ME AGAIN.
AND THEY'LL BE RIGHT.
MS. LOIS L
UGH. I KNOW YOU'RE NEW HERE, BUT THIS IS THE DAILY PLANET, LOIS. WE DON'T PRINT PROPAGANDA.
...
IT'S GOT TO BE LATE OVER THERE. LET'S REGROUP TOMORROW YOUR-TIME. SEE WHAT WE HAVE FOR SUNDAY.
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
MS. LANE,
I'LL BE AT THE RESTAURANT OF GAMORRA CITY INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL UNTIL IT CLOSES. I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
JACKSON KING
THIS EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE TRIP DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A LOSS.
WHOA!
SORRY, WHAT?
STEVE, GOOD IDEA, LET'S TALK TOMORROW.
YOU HAVE A GREAT DAY.
ADELINE KANE


TAXI!
C'MON C'MONC'MONC'MON PLEEEEEEASE
PROPERTY OF METROPOL UNIVERSI
THE KITCHEN IS CLOSING IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.
I'M SO SORRY, I SAW YOUR MESSAGE LATE--
NOT AT ALL.
THANK YOU FOR MEETING ME, MS. LANE.
I'M HOPING NOT TO TAKE UP TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME.

COMMANDER KING, THIS IS REALLY UNEXPECTED AND JUST--THANK YOU. YOU NEVER TALK TO THE PRESS.
YOU CAN CALL ME JACKSON, MS. LANE. AND ABOUT THAT...
I CAN'T CALL YOU BATTALION? SORRY...
...I DID A PARODY EXPOSÉ ON STORMWATCH FOR MY HIGH SCHOOL PAPER.
CALL ME WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
BUT EVERYTHING I'M GOING TO TELL YOU, I CAN DOCUMENT.
THAT'S--THAT'S EXCELLENT.
AND I CAN TAKE THESE DOCUMENTS WITH ME, OR...
ACTUALLY, WAIT.
I NEED TO ASK WHY A CHECKMATE LEGEND...
...IS HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD...
...TALKING TO ME.
MS. LANE, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A WOMAN NAMED AMANDA WALLER?

NEVER. WHO IS SHE?
SHE'S THE REASON MY FRIEND IS DEAD.

AFGHANISTAN,
ONE YEAR EARLIER.
FWOOOOOOOSSSH
SHIT!
YOU THE DUTY OFFICER?
Y-YESSIR--
WINTER IN THERE?
SIR?
NIKOLAS.
KAMAROV.
IS... HE...
BATTALION, SIR, COMMANDER KAMAROV ORDERED ME--
RRRRRR

WINTER!
NUHHHHHH!
ALL OF CHECKMATE TALKS ABOUT YOU AS *GREAT TACTICIAN,* BATTALION.
YET YOU COME BLASTING WITH AN *ENERGY ABSORBER* NEARBY.
NIGEL WAS *STORMWATCH!* HE WAS YOUR *TEAMMATE!*
AND YOU MURDERED HIM!
COMMANDER KING!
WAIT!

RRRRRRAAAHHH!
ZZZZZZZZZZRK
THOOM
CH'YORT!
HAHAHAHA--HACHAK--HAHA
THAT'S ENOUGH!
GET THE FUCK UP!
COMMANDER KING--PLEASE.
THIS BASE IS MY FIRST COMMISSION. I JUST GOT IT.
IF YOU KILL COMMANDER KAMAROV, I WILL BE COURT-MARTIALED.
VERY WELL. LET'S TALK.
HAHAHAHA--HACHAK--HAHA

MA'AM, I THINK THIS IS THE *LAST* PLACE ON *EARTH* CHECKMATE SHOULD BE. BUT I RESPECT THAT YOU RUN THINGS HERE.
AND I'M *STILL* GONNA NEED YOU TO TURN WINTER OVER TO *ME.*
MA'AM?
...I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST-- *YOU'RE* BATTALION.
YOU'RE A *PIONEER.*
MA'AM--I APPRECIATE THAT, TRULY--BUT I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE COMMANDER KAMAROV *MURDERED* CHECKMATE COMMANDER *NIGEL KEANE.*
OH, LORD... WHAT KIND OF REASON?
NIGEL WAS *HELLSTRIKE.* FROM *MY* TEAM. *STORMWATCH.*
IT HAS BEEN AN *HONOR* TO SERVE WITH SUCH A HERO.
HE WAS THE *BEST* OF CHECKMATE. THE *REAL* CHECKMATE. WHEN WE DID *CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT.*
BEFORE *THIS* SHIT.

"THIS SHIT"?
MA'AM, I APOLOGIZE IF I COME ACROSS AS DISMISSIVE. YOU JUST GOT HERE AND I RESPECT THAT.
BUT LOOK AROUND. YOU RUN A BLACK SITE.
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE IN OUR LINE OF WORK CALL A *TORTURE CHAMBER.*
LIKE I SAID, I SERVED WITH HELLSTRIKE. WE WENT *THROUGH THINGS* TOGETHER.
HE *TRUSTED* ME.
NIGEL *NEVER* BELIEVED CHECKMATE HAD *ANY* BUSINESS OUTSIDE OUR BORDERS, BUT HE WENT WHERE THEY SENT HIM. HERE.
A *SUPPLY OUTPOST.* BUT REALLY, WHERE WE TAKE PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE *POWERS.*
"WHY DID THEY SEND HELLSTRIKE THERE?
WHAT WAS *CHECKMATE* DOING IN *AFGHANISTAN?*
ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS THEY MANNED A SUPPLY OUTPOST.
FOR THE FIGHTERS AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

THE ADELINE KANES OF CHECKMATE, THIS IS WHAT THEY THINK WE SHOULD DO.
GO TO WHATEVER WAR WASHINGTON STICKS US IN. FIND LOCALS WHO MIGHT HAVE POWERS. GET TO THEM BEFORE THE OTHER SIDE DOES.
BRING 'EM HERE.
TO TEST WHETHER THEY REALLY DO HAVE POWERS. UNDER CONDITIONS OF EXTREME STRESS.
HELLSTRIKE COULDN'T SAY MUCH OVER AN OFFICIAL CHANNEL. JUST THAT IF HE ENDED UP DEAD, I SHOULD GET HIS FILES HERE...
...AND IT WOULD BE OUR FRIEND WINTER WHO KILLED HIM.
...
MY MOTHER WOULD CALL US TO THE TV WHEN THEY WOULD SHOW BATTALION ON THE NEWS. ALL OF US WERE SO PROUD OF YOU.
DOING WHAT YOU DID, FOR WHO YOU DID IT FOR--I WANTED THEM TO FEEL THAT PRIDE IN ME. SO I HAD TO DO WHAT YOU DO.
I COULD NEVER, THOUGH.
COME ON, NOW--
IT WAS LIKE, WHAT NEXT? THEY GONNA LET YOU BE WEATHERMAN? RUNNING THINGS FROM A SATELLITE UP IN SPACE?

I'M GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD THAT IMPACT.
WEATHERMAN, THOUGH--I'LL TELL YOU...MA'AM, I APOLOGIZE, I DON'T THINK I HEARD YOUR NAME?
CHIEF OF BASE AMANDA WALLER. IT'S AN HONOR, SIR.
WELL, CHIEF WALLER--AMANDA--WHEN I SAW THEM LAUNCH SKYWATCH, I KNEW I HAD TO GET UP THERE.
YOU TOO?
ME TOO. RECKONED CHECKMATE--THIS SUIT--MIGHT BE THE WAY.
IF THEY'RE GONNA HAVE A GIANT SPACE STATION UP ABOVE US, ONE OF US HAS TO BE ON IT.
EXACTLY, SIR.
YOU NEVER FOUND OUT WHAT A CIVIL RIGHTS AGENCY, THE ONLY U.S. AGENCY LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO USE METAHUMAN ABILITIES, WAS DOING...
...MANNING A "SUPPLY OUTPOST"...
...IN A PROXY WAR HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD?
MS. LANE. I SAID I CAN DOCUMENT WHAT I TELL YOU.
YOU, ME, AND EVERYONE ELSE HAS AN OPINION ABOUT WHAT CHECKMATE DOES IN WHATEVER PLACE. I CAME HERE TO DOCUMENT SOMETHING.

...BUT YOU'RE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.
HEH. YEAH. AS IT TURNS OUT, AFGHANISTAN WAS HOW I GOT THAT JOB.
"YOU DIDN'T DISAPPOINT ME, COMMANDER KING...
...OF COURSE YOU FLEW HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD. FOR YOUR FRIEND. FOR CHECKMATE.
ALL I NEED IS FIVE MINUTES WITH NIGEL'S FILE CABINET.
AND FIVE MORE MINUTES WITH WINTER.
THEN LET'S GET GOING.
YOU'RE A LEGEND...

...I TRULY WISH THIS COULD HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY.
JACKSON. PLEASE. JUST COME WITH US.
PLEASE, JACKSON.
HAHAHAHAHA
ALESSANDRA! TOSHIRO! MITCHELL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CHIEF OF BASE WALLER...
...YOUR SITREP, PLEASE.
BISHOP KANE, AT 0600, OPERATIVE CODENAME BATTALION ASSAULTED SWIGERT BASE.
UPON ARRIVAL, HE USED HIS BATTLE SUIT AGAINST OPERATIVE CODENAME WINTER WITH INTENT TO DO HIM HARM.
A NON-CUSTODIAL INTERVIEW WITH BATTALION DETERMINED THAT OPERATIVE CODENAME HELLSTRIKE, WHOSE DEATH I AM INVESTIGATING, KEPT UNAUTHORIZED RECORDS OF SWIGERT OPERATIONS.
YOU TREACHEROUS--
JACKSON.
YOU HAVE PUT ON THAT SUIT FOR THE LAST TIME.
YOU FIRE ANOTHER PSI-BLAST IN HERE AND I WILL LOCK YOU UP.

THEY MADE YOU INSPECTOR GENERAL AFTER THREATENING YOU WITH PRISON?
IT WAS AN EMPTY THREAT.
TAKING AWAY THE BATTALION SUIT WASN'T.
EVEN SO, PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF CHECKMATE'S INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS...?
I STILL HAD PULL IN CHECKMATE. I GOT TO SAVE FACE. THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE I.G..
LONELY WORLD
CAMORRA
BUT IT WAS SOMEWHERE I COULD STILL CHECK HER. CHECK AMANDA.
OKAY. AND WHO'S--YOU CALLED HER ADELINE?
ADELINE KANE. SHE WAS WALLER'S BENEFACTOR. BUT LOOK, SHE'S NOT THE ISSUE.
WAS? WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
WALLER MATTERS HERE. NOT ME, NOT ADELINE.
A BLACK-SITE CHIEF. WHO'S TAKING CONTROL OF CHECKMATE.
SO. IF WALLER GOT PROMOTED...
...IS SHE STILL TORTURING PEOPLE?
IT'S PAST THAT NOW.

EL SALVADOR.
SIX MONTHS EARLIER.

KA-KARTA KRENG!

WHY WOULDN'T WALLER NEED TO TORTURE PEOPLE ANYMORE?
AMANDA'S AMBITIONS ARE LARGER THAN THAT.
THERE WAS AN OPERATION IN GAMORRA.
"CHECKMATE WAS HERE?"
"AMANDA'S PEOPLE WERE HERE."
WITHOUT CHECKMATE'S KNOWLEDGE?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT WALLER IS TAKING OVER CHECKMATE.
THE FOUL SHIT SHE DOES...
...IT'S ABOUT TO BE ALL CHECKMATE DOES.
OH MY GOD--WHO--WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
"THE WORK OF WALLER'S FAVORITE CONTRACTOR.
"ONE OF THE WORST PIECES OF SHIT EVER SMEARED ACROSS CHECKMATE. HE MIGHT BE THE DEADLIEST, TOO."
"OKAY...BUT WHAT ABOUT HER?"
HER NAME IS KATRINA CUPERTINO.
AND I...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE SHE IS.

VIRGINIA.
TWO WEEKS AGO.

'E'S INNEER.
WAS BLIND DRUNK WHEN WE PICKED HIM UP. PUT A GUY IN *TRACTION.*

CRAY. GET UP.

A SOURCE CAME TO ME WITH AN ACCOUNT FOR INVESTIGATION. SAID THAT AMANDA AUTHORIZED A RENDITION.
HE WAS REAL MESSED UP OVER IT.
"HE WAS THE KIDNAPPER?"
MY SOURCE-- FIRST OFF, THIS WASN'T A KIDNAPPING, THIS WAS A RENDITION. YOU REPORT ON THIS. YOU SHOULD KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.
I KNOW IT PERFECTLY. IT'S A RENDITION WHEN WE DO IT, AND A KIDNAPPING WHEN SOMEONE WASHINGTON DOESN'T LIKE DOES IT.
NOW HOLD ON, MS. LANE--
"ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW WHAT? THANK YOU."
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW WHEN A JOURNALIST CAN'T TELL THE GOOD GUYS FROM THE BAD GUYS.

WHOA. LET'S-- OKAY, LOOK... WHEN WAS THIS?
THIS WAS...VERY RECENTLY.
CAN I PLEASE JUST TELL YOU WHAT I'M HERE TO TELL YOU, MS. LANE?
SORRY. GO ON.
THE TRAIL LED BACK HERE.
GAMORRA.
ONE WEEK AGO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT EXACTLY I THOUGHT I'D FIND.

IN RETROSPECT, I WAS EMOTIONAL.
MC
"WHATEVER WAS BEHIND THIS DOOR...
STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO PASS
"...ALL I THOUGHT WAS, IT WOULD FINALLY STOP HER.
"IT HAD TO."

EXIT

KATRINA HADN'T DONE ANYTHING TO AMANDA. PROBABLY NEVER THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT GAMORRA.
"BUT SOME YEARS AGO, SHE PAID A LOT OF MONEY TO HAVE A SUITE OF CYBERNETIC IMPLANTS SURGICALLY GRAFTED TO HER BODY.
AND AMANDA...
CKMB 307
INTERVIEW: WILSON,S
"...SHE WANTED THOSE ENHANCEMENTS."

JESUS.
WHAT... WHY DID SHE WANT THE...
YUMIKO GAMORRA.
HER FATHER WAS AN ASSHOLE AND A PEACOCK. BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, HE WAS ABOUT *QUIET.*
HIS DAUGHTER IS A DIFFERENT STORY.
YUMIKO WANTS TO ENHANCE *HERSELF.* MOST EFFICIENT THING TO DO. FINISH OFF HER OPPOSITION.
AMANDA IS HER SUPPLIER.
READ THAT FOR YOURSELF. IT'S ALL IN THERE.
MK-1
CYBERNA
BUT PLEASE READ FAST. IT'S IMPORTANT WE MOVE QUICKLY.
JUST A COUPLE MORE QUESTIONS.

YOU SAID ALL THIS HAPPENED IN A YEAR.
HOW'D SHE GO *IN ONE YEAR* FROM STARTING OUT AT A BLACK SITE TO *KIDNAPPING* AND *DISSECTION* ON BEHALF OF A FOREIGN LEADER-IN-WAITING?
THAT'S NOT WHAT *MATTERS HERE.*
MS. LANE, IF YOU DON'T WRITE THIS STORY *FAST--*
BECAUSE EITHER SHE'S HAD THE MOST METEORIC RISE IN *BUREAUCRATIC HISTORY...*
...OR SOMETHING'S *WRONG* WITH YOUR STORY.
WHAT I'VE BEEN *TRYING TO TELL YOU* IS THAT SOMEONE *WILLING TO TRAFFIC METAHUMAN PARTS* IS TAKING OVER CHECKMATE.
THAT *SURE IS* THE STORY YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME.
BUT THE STORY YOU'VE *DESCRIBED* TO ME IS ABOUT CHECKMATE BEING SO *ROTTED* THAT SOMEONE LIKE THIS COULD TAKE IT OVER. IN A *YEAR.*
THIS WAS A MISTAKE.
NO, HANG ON.
I *KNEW* THIS WAS A MISTAKE.
ALL THIS TIME, CHECKMATE HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO USE THE STRATEGIC WEAPON OF METAHUMAN ABILITY. *NO* OTHER AGENCY HAS HAD THAT MANDATE. *LEGALLY.*
AS LONG AS THERE'S A CHECKMATE, ISN'T IT A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE LIKE *AMANDA* BECOMES QUEEN?
SINCE WHEN DOES AMERICA BUILD A WEAPON IT DOESN'T *EXPORT?*

THAT'S BULLSHIT. NIGEL WAS CHECKMATE TO THE BONE.
YOU'RE THE SOPHISTICATED REPORTER. BUT ALL YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT WE'RE ALL THE SAME. OUR CHOICES DON'T MATTER.
NO, I'M NOT SAYING THAT AT ALL.
NO, YOU ARE, YOU'RE JUST A COWARD ABOUT IT.
YOU HAVE THAT FOLDER. IF YOU CARE ABOUT WRITING THE TRUTH.
NO! NO, ONE MORE THING...
...YOU SAID YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE KATRINA IS...
...BUT YOU DO KNOW WHERE HER ENHANCEMENTS WENT?
YOU'RE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL. DID YOU INVESTIGATE WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
YOU WERE ONLY INVESTIGATING AMANDA WALLER, WEREN'T YOU?
FUCK YOU, LOIS LANE.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR AGENDA.

WUUUUUHHHHHHH
HRRRRRRRRRKKHHHHHHH
:HFFFFFFFF:
:HFFFFFFFF:
:HUHHHHH:
HHHHHNNNRRAAAHHH!
HOW MANY MORE STORIES ARE YOU GOING TO RUIN?
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST SHUT YOUR MOUTH?!
WALLER...

...YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE WHO JUST WALKED OUT OF HERE.
TO BE CONTINUED.

WALLER VS. WILDSTORM

CHRIS CONROY
Editor

MARQUIS DRAPER
Associate Editor

DARRAN ROBINSON
& KENNY LOPEZ
Publication Design

TIFFANY HUANG
Publication Production

MARIE JAVINS Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics

ANNE DePIES Senior VP – General Manager

JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer

DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management

LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Talent Services

ALISON GILL Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations

JEFFREY KAUFMAN VP – Editorial Strategy & Programming

NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing Administration & Design

NANCY SPEARS VP – Revenue

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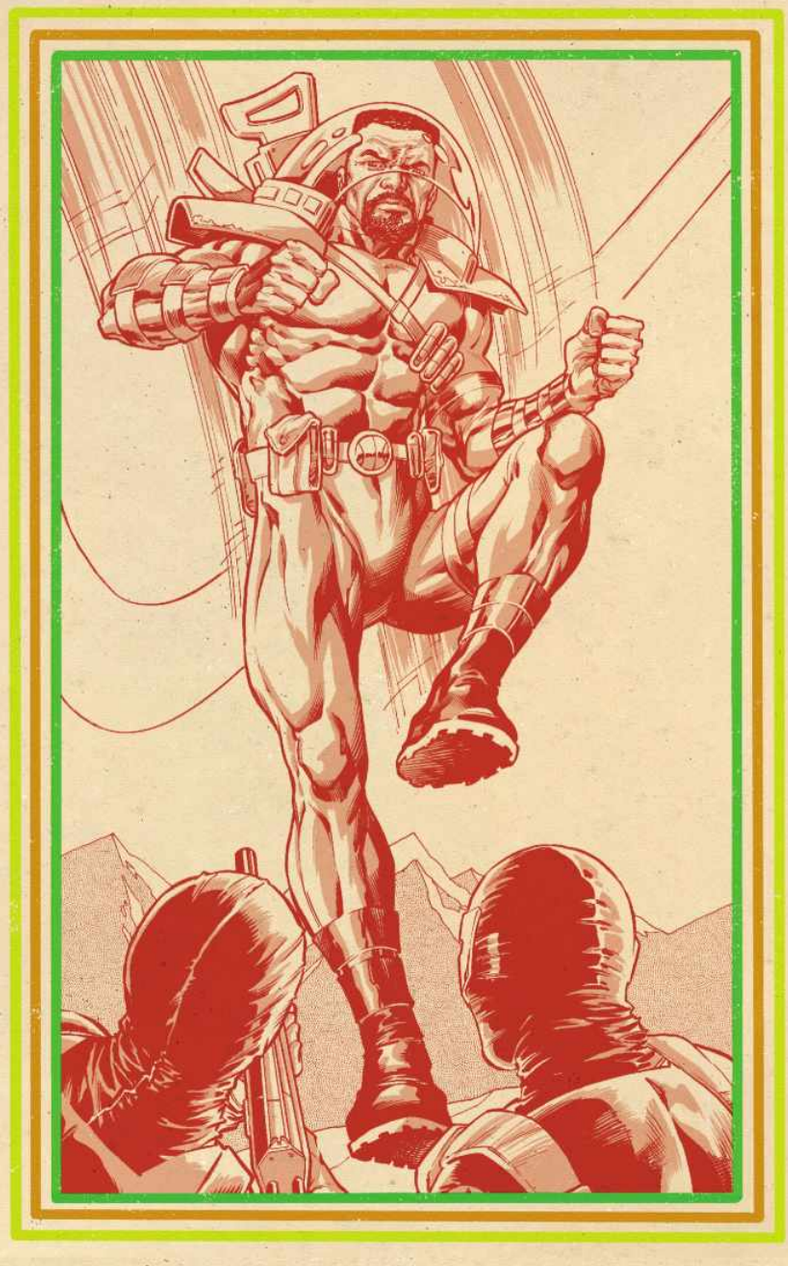
**"MS. LANE, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A WOMAN NAMED *AMANDA WALLER?*
"SHE'S THE REASON MY FRIEND IS *DEAD.*"**



In the late 1980s, as the Cold War begins to thaw, a new battle heats up...for the soul of the intelligence agency Checkmate. As the agency's super-heroic public face, Jackson King—a.k.a. the armored Battalion, former leader of Stormwatch and the symbol of American might—has long suspected that Adeline Kane is up to dirty tricks overseas, engineering horrors that betray everything he believes about service to one's country. But King doesn't know that Kane has a clever new ally—an ambitious young woman named Amanda Waller. She has her own ideas about how metahumans can serve their country. And honor, dignity, and long lives don't factor into them...

National-security reporter Spencer Ackerman (the Daily Beast, *Reign of Terror*), comics and video game writer Evan Narcisse (*Black Panther*, *Spider-Man: Miles Morales*, *Batman: Gotham Knights – Gilded City*), and veteran artist Jesús Merino (*Justice League*, *Wonder Woman*) celebrate WildStorm's legacy of espionage-flavored superhero morality plays, pitting Stormwatch against the deadliest people in the DCU—including Deathstroke himself!

COVER BY JORGE FORNÉS

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